GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2513
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2002
MALNUTRITION AMONG CHILDREN
A.P. JITHENDER REDDY

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey conducted by Family Planning Association of India recently revealed that 72 per cent of children in India suffer from malnutrition and anaemia;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to check this situation?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a)&(b): Family Planning Association of India has not undertaken any survey on malnutrition and anaemia.However, as per National Family Health Survey 2 (1998-99), 47% children below 3 years of age are underweight and 74.3% of children between 6-35 months of age have some degree of anaemia.

(c): The Government has taken the following steps to improve the health and nutritional status of people in the country:-

Increased Agricultural Production.
Improving the purchasing power of the people through income generating schemes.
Availability of essential food items at subsidized cost through Public Distribution System.
Nutrition education to increase the awareness and bringing about the desired changes in the feeding practices including promotion of breast feeding.
Supplementary feeding programmes such as:

(i) Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS).

(ii) Special Nutrition Programmes (SNP).

(iii) Balwadi Nutrition Programme (BNP).

(iv) Wheat Based Supplementary Nutrition Programme.

(v) Pradhan Mantri Grameen Yojana (PMGY).

(vi) Mid-day Meal Programme.

- Programme for Prevention of Specific Nutrient Deficiency Disorders such as:

(a) National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme.

(b) Programme to prevent Blindness due to Vitamin `A` deficiency and Nutritional Anaemia due to Iron deficiency as a part of Reproductive and Child Health Programme.

(c) Pilot Project for control of Micro-nutrient Malnutrition.